

a tapered structure adjacent said contact structure,
a circumferentially engageable portion spaced from the contact structure, and
a threadably engageable mounting structure at the opposite end of the cutting element from
the contact structure,
wherein at least a portion of the contact structure is harder than 67 on the Rockwell C scale and
wherein the total length of the cutting element divided by a largest diameter of the cutting element is
less than 3.25.

31. (once amended) A cutting element for cutting brittle materials, the cutting element comprising:

a contact structure comprised of a first material,
a generally tapered shoulder adjacent said contact structure, the shoulder comprised of a
second material, and wherein
the hardness of the second material is at least 1000 points on the Vickers scale, and
the hardness of the first material is at least 300 points harder on the Vickers scale than the
second material, and wherein
the total length of the cutting element divided by the largest diameter of the cutting element
is less than 3.25.

RESPONSE AND REMARKS:

The examiner has imposed a restriction requirement among the five embodiments of the invention shown in the drawings, requiring an election of a single disclosed embodiment for prosecution until a generic claim is allowed, and indication of what claims are readable on that embodiment.

Applicant elects the species of FIG. 11, on which is readable claims 1-15, 20-25, 29, and 31-43. Independent claim 11 is generic to all the species of Figs. 9-11; Fig. 8 will be cancelled when claims are allowed.